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# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK SOUBLEMENT SEEDINGS WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR MONTANA

1961 32 VON

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. and MONTANA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State, and private organizations listed on the inside back cover of this report.

SNOW PILLOW RECORDS 1967 WATER YEAR

### TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season as they affect runoff will add to be an effective average. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1400 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. In the near future, it is anticipated that automatic snow water equivalent sensing devices along with radio telemetry will provide a continuous record of snow water equivalent at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data or reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

Listed below are water supply outlook reports based on Federal-State-Private Cooperative snow surveys. Those published by the Soil Conservation Service may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Room 507, Federal Building, 701 N. W. Glisan, Portland, Oregon 97209.

### PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

D. A. WILLIAMS, Administrator

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 507, 701 N. W. Glisan, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	P. O. Box "F", Palmer, Alaska 99645
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85205
Colorado (N. Mex.)	12417 Federal Building, Denver, Colorado 80202
Idaho	P. O. Box 38, Boise, Idaho 83701
Montana	P. O. Box 855, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4001 Federal Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	840 Bon Marche Bldg., Spokane, Washington 99206
Wyoming	P. O. Box 340, Casper, Wyoming 82602

### PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK For MONTANA

and

### FEDERAL-STATE-PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

Issued October 1, 1967

By
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Administrator
Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D. C.

Released by
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Soil Conservation Service
Bozeman, Montana

In Cooperation with
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# MONTANA FALL RESUME October 1, 1967

Water Conditions - Soil Moisture - Reservoir Storage

# Columbia Drainage

Streamflow was near to above average during the April through September period. Runoff from the Kootenai and Flathead River basins was less than anticipated because of almost nonexistent precipitation during July, August and September. Based on Provisional Data provided by the Geological Survey, April-September runoff was about 110-115 percent average in the Kootenai drainage and 105 to 110 percent in the Flathead drainage. The Bitterroot drainage was near average while streams in the upper Clark Fork were 10 to 15 percent above average.

Soils are dry at all elevations and good Fall rains or some snow pack will be necessary to bring moisture levels up to average.

## Missouri Drainage

Data provided by the Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation and Montana Power Company indicate streamflow was above average in all Missouri River drainages during the April through September period, and was quite large in the Yellowstone and Missouri River headwater tributaries and from streams in Central Montana. Good snow pack, late runoff and adequate precipitation combined to produce the large flows. Late season irrigation supplies held up well considering the below average precipitation during July, August and September, in some areas.

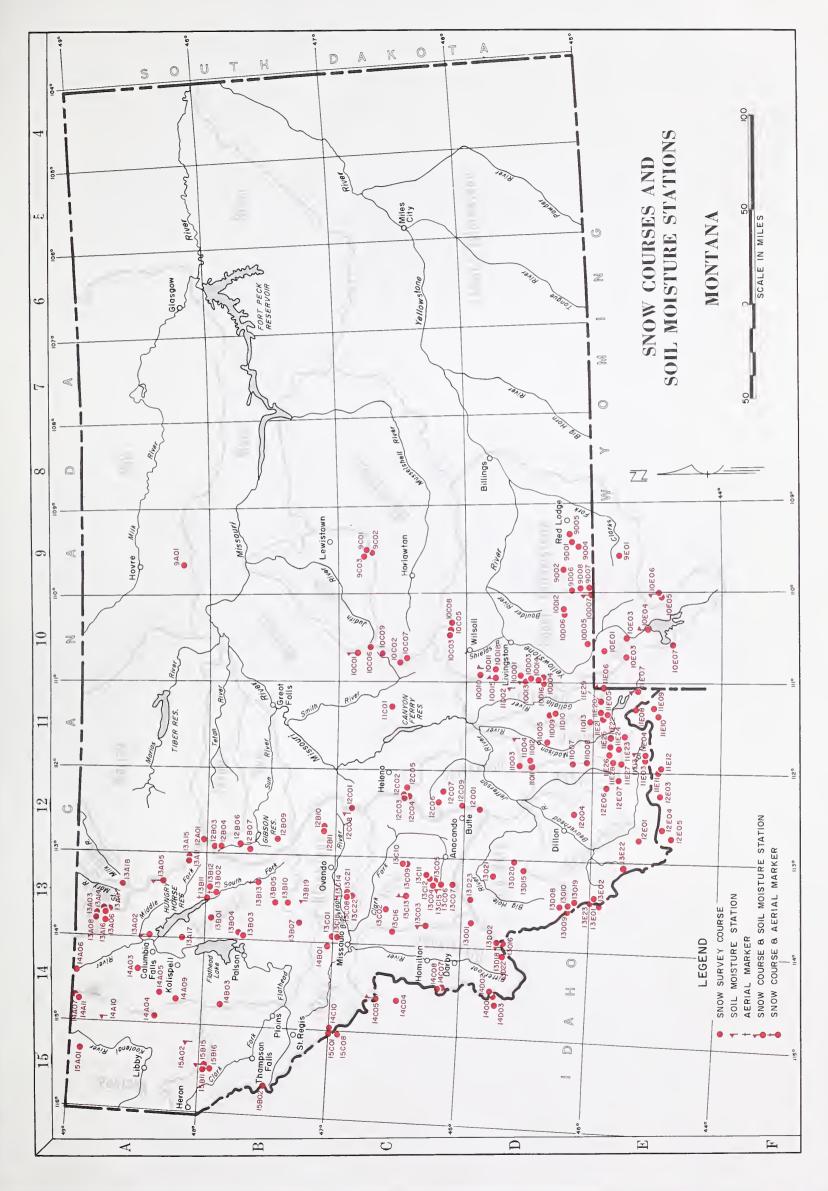
Storage in irrigation reservoirs is generally below average but they should refill next spring with near average snow pack.

Soils in the Northern drainages are generally much drier than usual. Those farther south are near to a little below average, having been recharged by recent rain and melt from mid-September snow.

April-September runoff in the upper Yellowstone drainage was 130 to 145 percent average, increasing below the Big Horn River where runoff was near record proportions.

The Missouri River headwater streams had 130 to 140 percent average runoff during the six-months period. The Sun River produced about 120 percent average runoff.

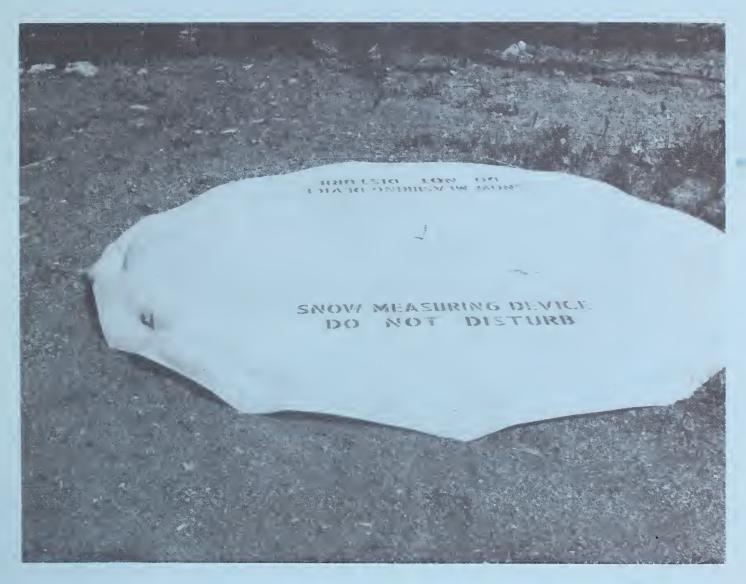




# INDEX to MONTANA SNOW COURSES and SOIL MOISTURE STATIONS

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	Drainage Basin & Course Name		KOOTENAI RIVER Baree Creak Baree Movay 8aree Trail	grusb Creek Jracks Creek Red Mountain Weasel Divide	FLATHEAD RIVER Season Peek Eeavor Lake Sig Creek Capp Misery Desert Wountain Fatty Creak	Griffin Creek Divide Gunsight Laka Hell Rearing Divida Holbrook Kisheneba Logan Greek	Marias Pass Mineral Creek North Fork Jocko Spotted Bear Mountain	Twin Creeks Upper Holland Lake	81sck Pine Copper Creek	Coyote Hill Coyote Hill Fred Burr Rass Cold Creek Lake Heart Lake Trail Hoodo Basin	Intergaard Lubrecht Forest No. 3 Lubrecht Forest No. 4 Lubrecht Forest No. 6 Red Lion Scalksho Smmitt	Slide Rock Wountain Southern Cross Spring Culch Storm Lake Stuart Mill	Strart Wountain TV Wountain FUTERROOT RIVER Abrose East Fork R.S. Câtbons Pass Lost Horse	₹	Josephine Lover No. 9 Mount Allen No. 7 Flegan Pass No. 6 Ftarnigan No. 8		BEAVERHEAD RIVER Bloody Disc. Cartor Crek. Ded Greek Lake Elk Born Springs Gold Stone Lakertev Caryon Lakertev Ridge Lemhi Pass Lemhi Pass Lemhi Rege Trail Greek White Pane Ridge	

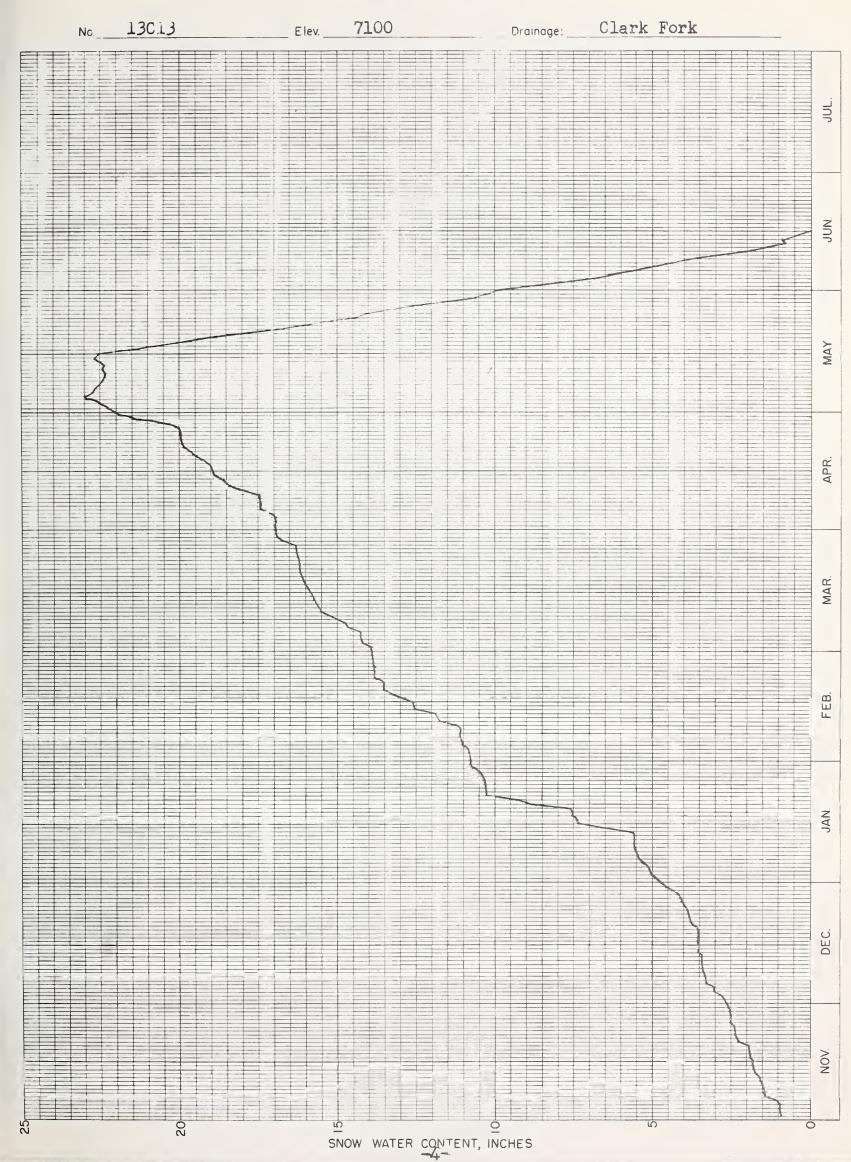
# THE SNOW PILLOW



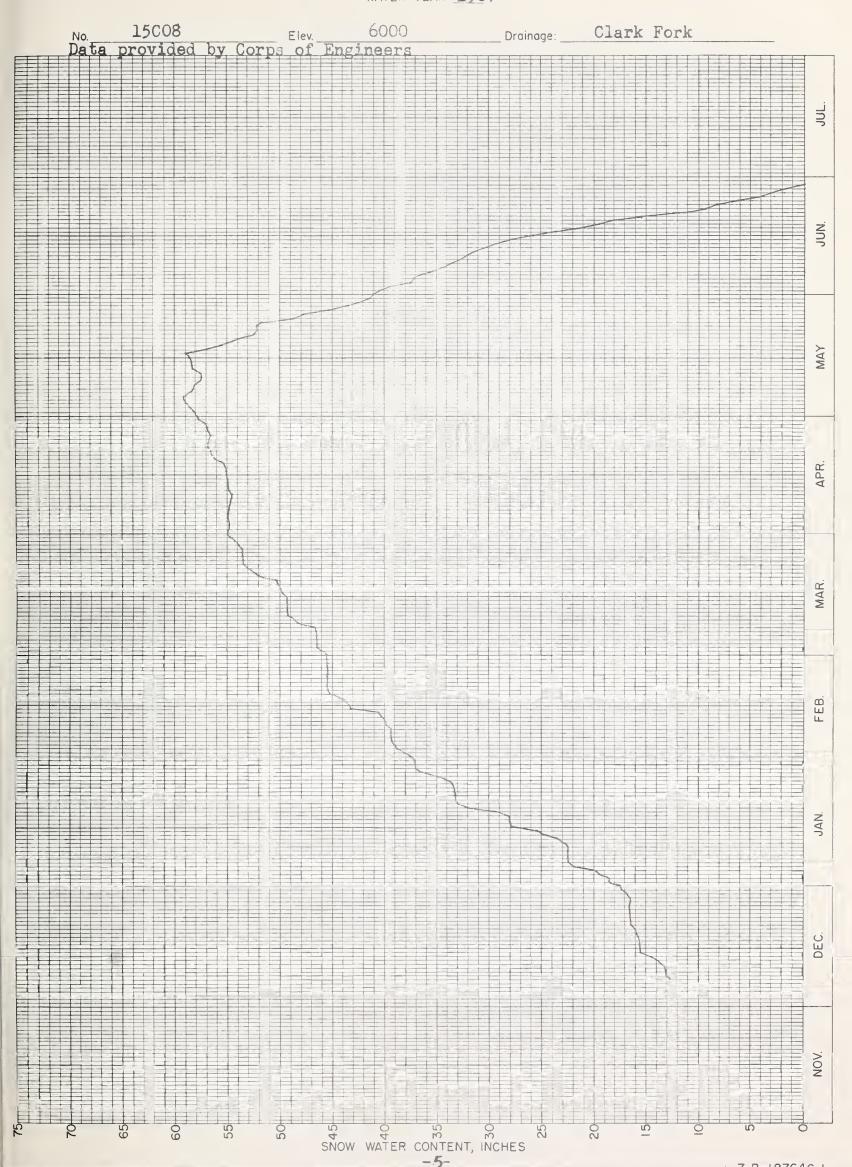
Snow Pillow installation at Lick Creek, Montana

During the past few years the Soil Conservation Service has tested snow measuring devices for obtaining a continuous record of snow accumulation and melt. The most versatile and promising is the nylon reinforced butyl or neoprene snow pillow, which is usually about 12 feet in diameter and filled with a methanol alcohol-water solution to a depth of three inches. The pillow is placed on a level ground surface. A hose connects the pillow to a manometer or pressure transducer in an instrument shelter. As snow falls on the pillow the amount of fluid rise in the manometer is equivalent to the water content in the snow pack. A water level recorder installed in the manometer provides a continuous record of the snow water content. Telemetered (transmitted by radio signal) information is obtained by connecting a pressure transducer to the pillow. The signal from the transducer is converted to equivalent inches of water content at the receiving station. Air temperature, total precipitation, soil moisture and soil temperature can be telemetered, in addition to snow water content.

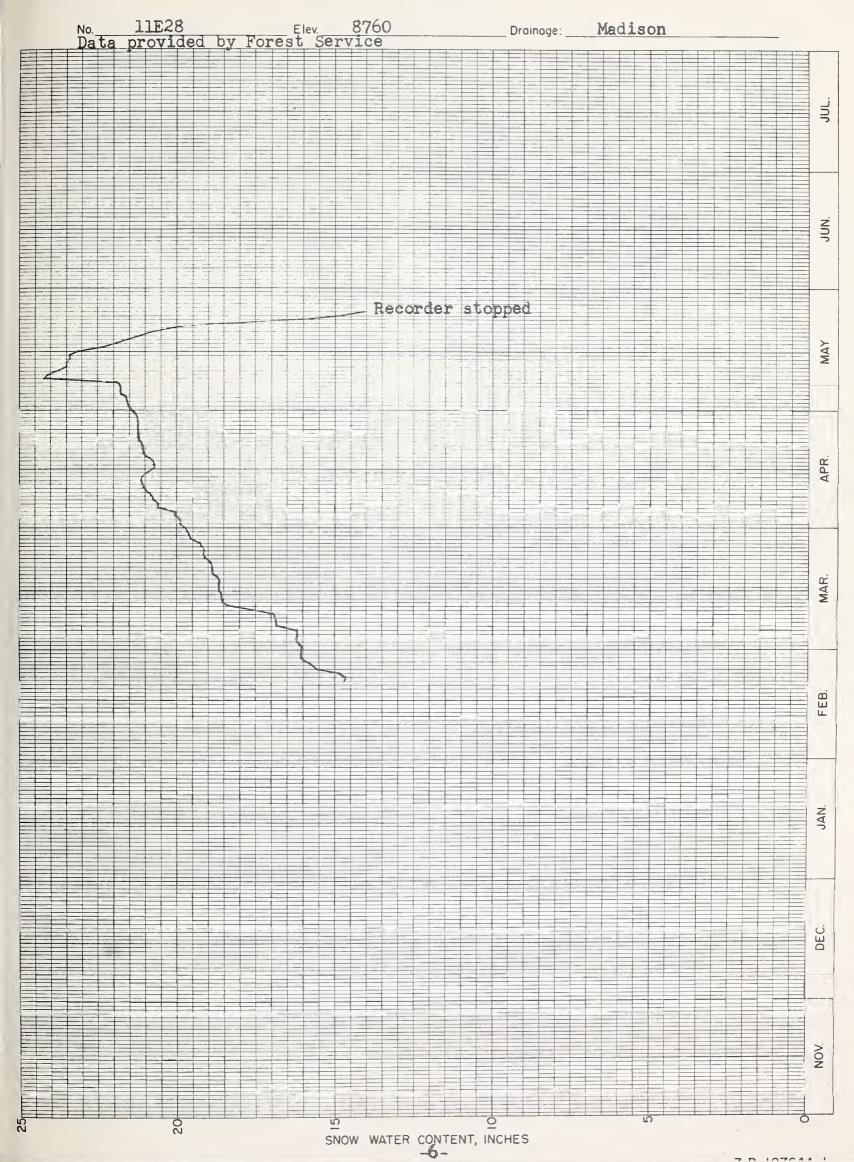




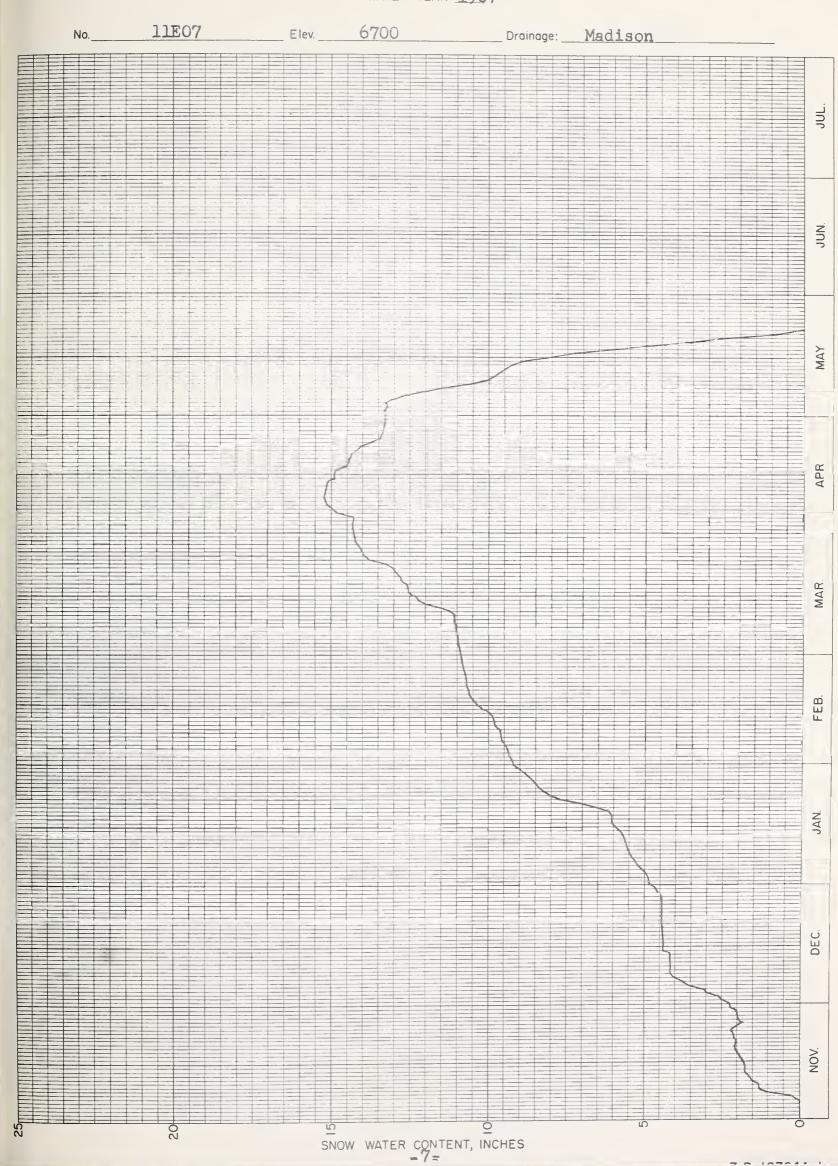




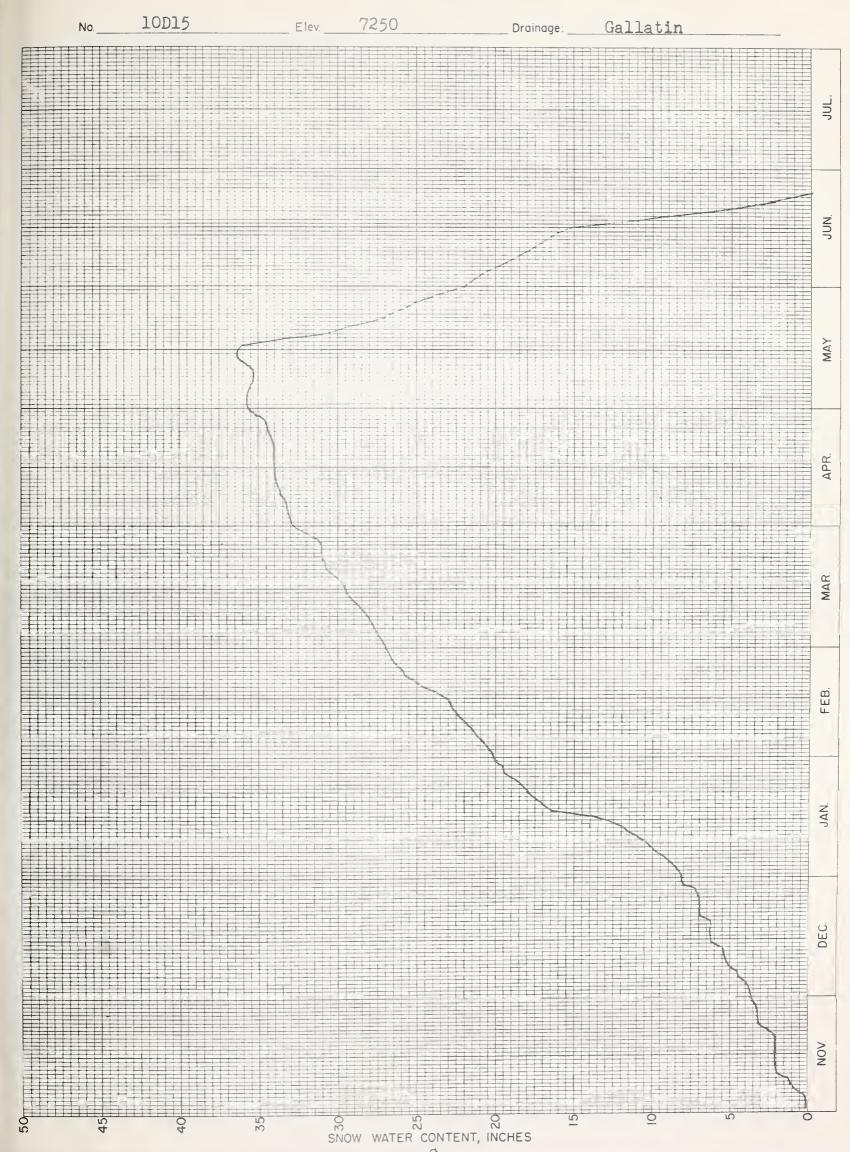




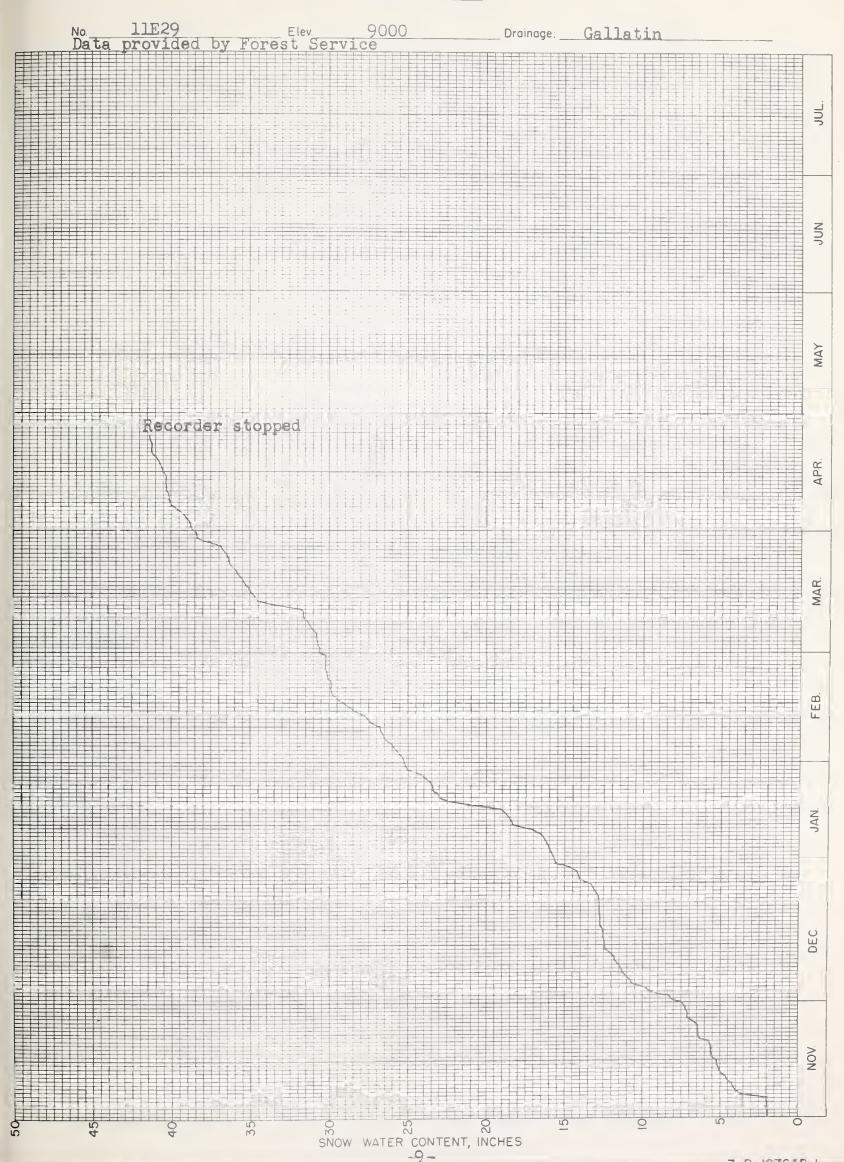




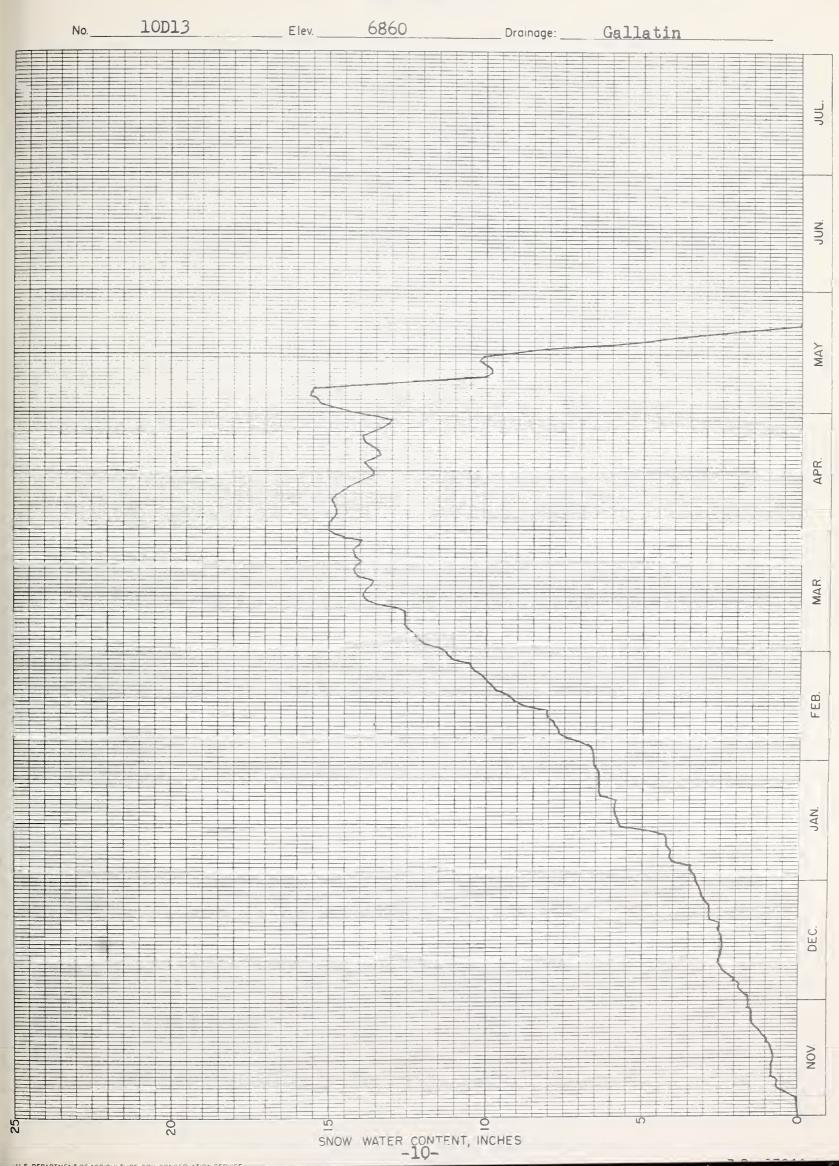








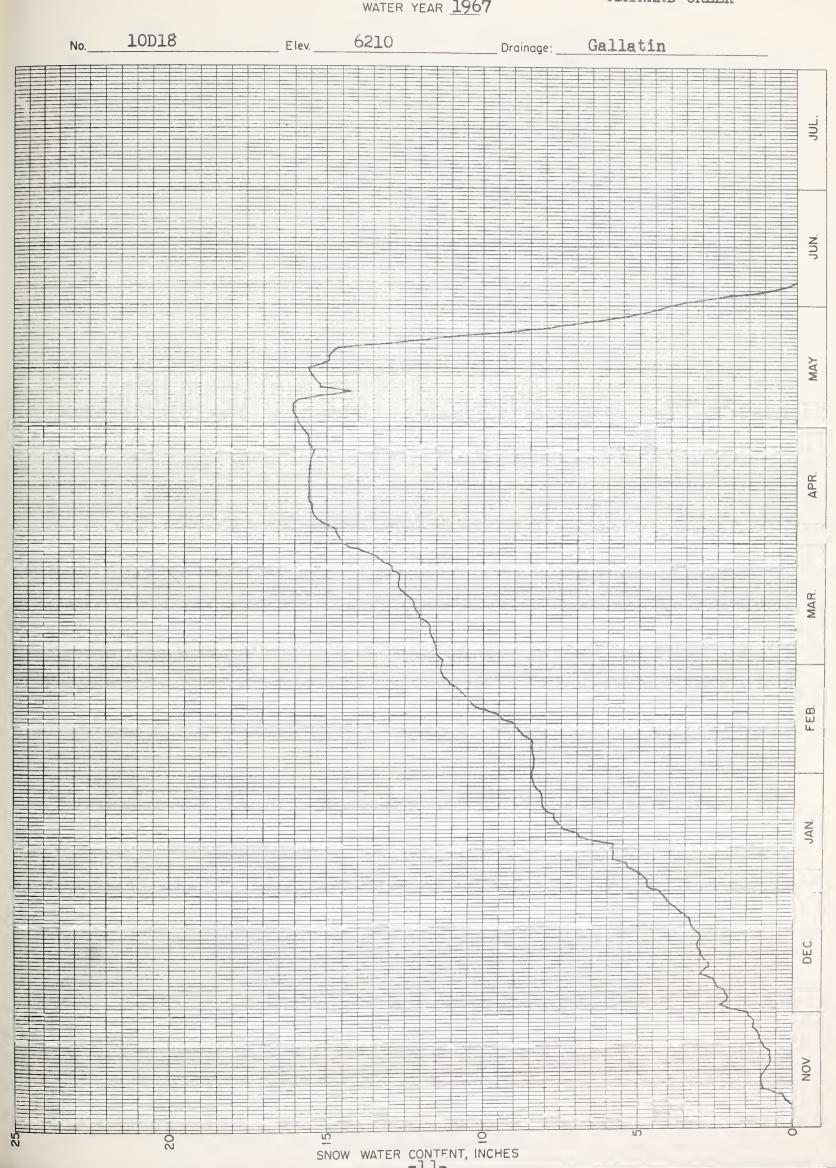






SNOW PILLOW DATA WATER YEAR 1967

MAYNARD CREEK



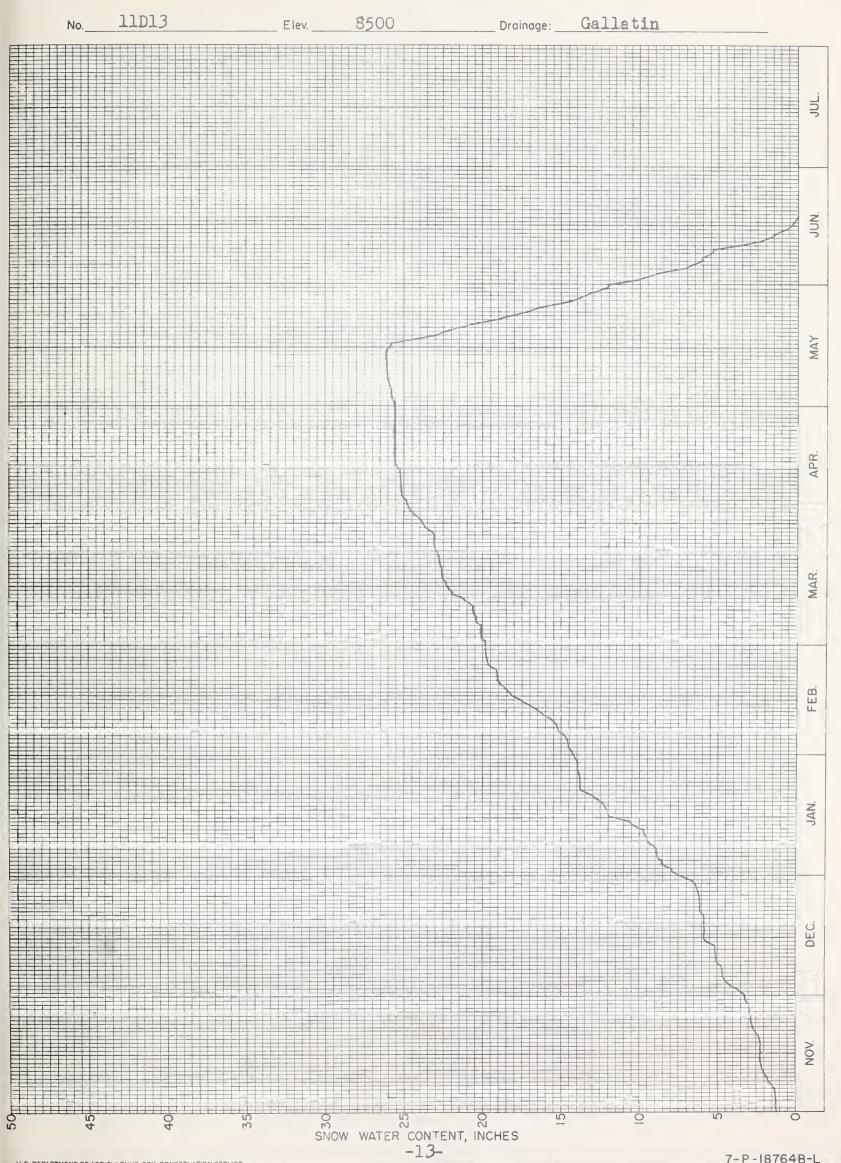


10D16 8100 Drainage: Gallatin SNOW WATER CONTENT, INCHES



SNOW PILLOW DATA WATER YEAR 1967

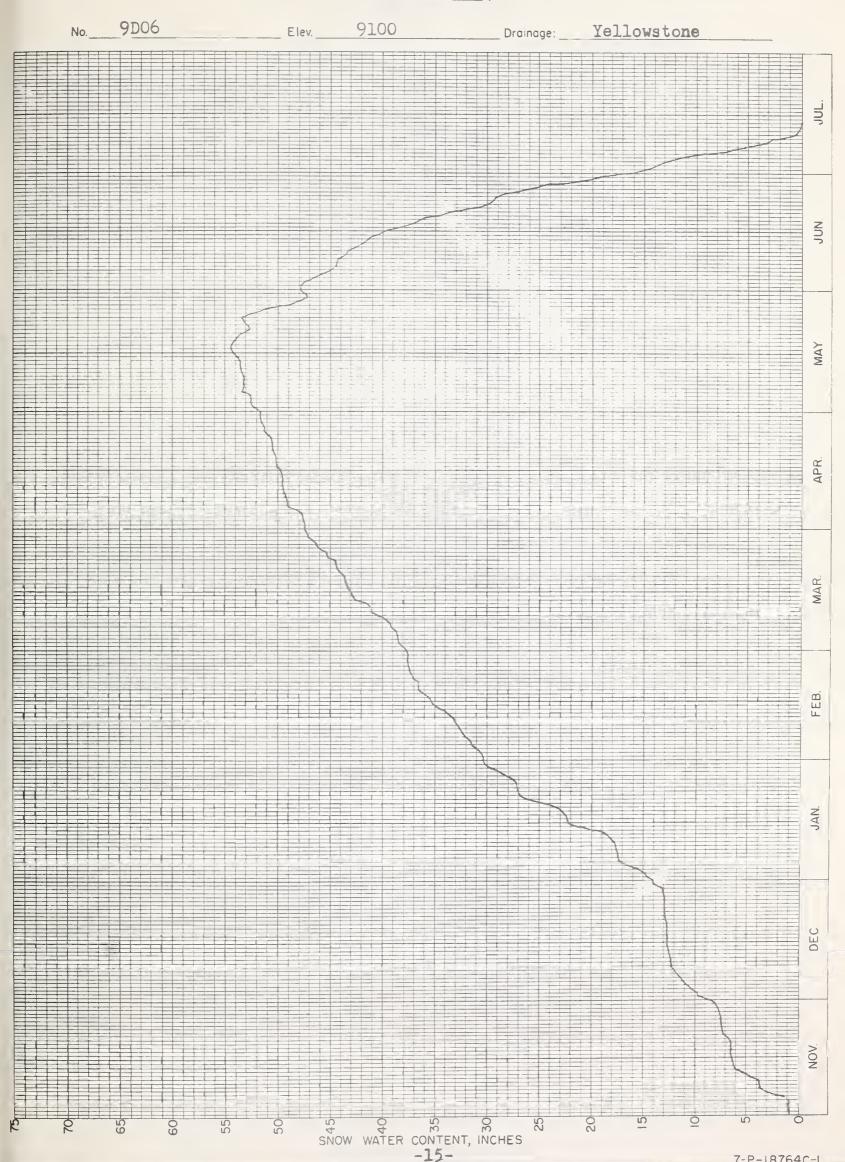
TAYLOR PEAKS



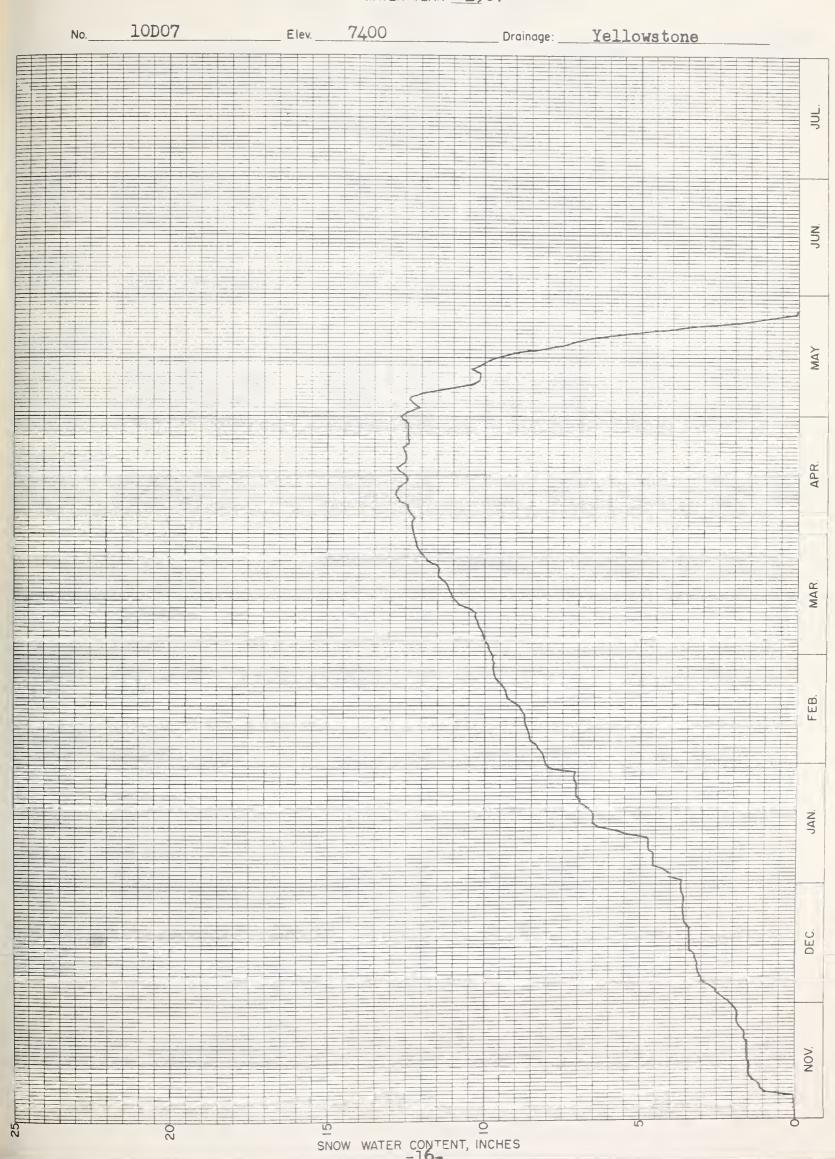


10006 8000 Judith Drainage: \_ NOV. SNOW WATER CONTENT, INCHES







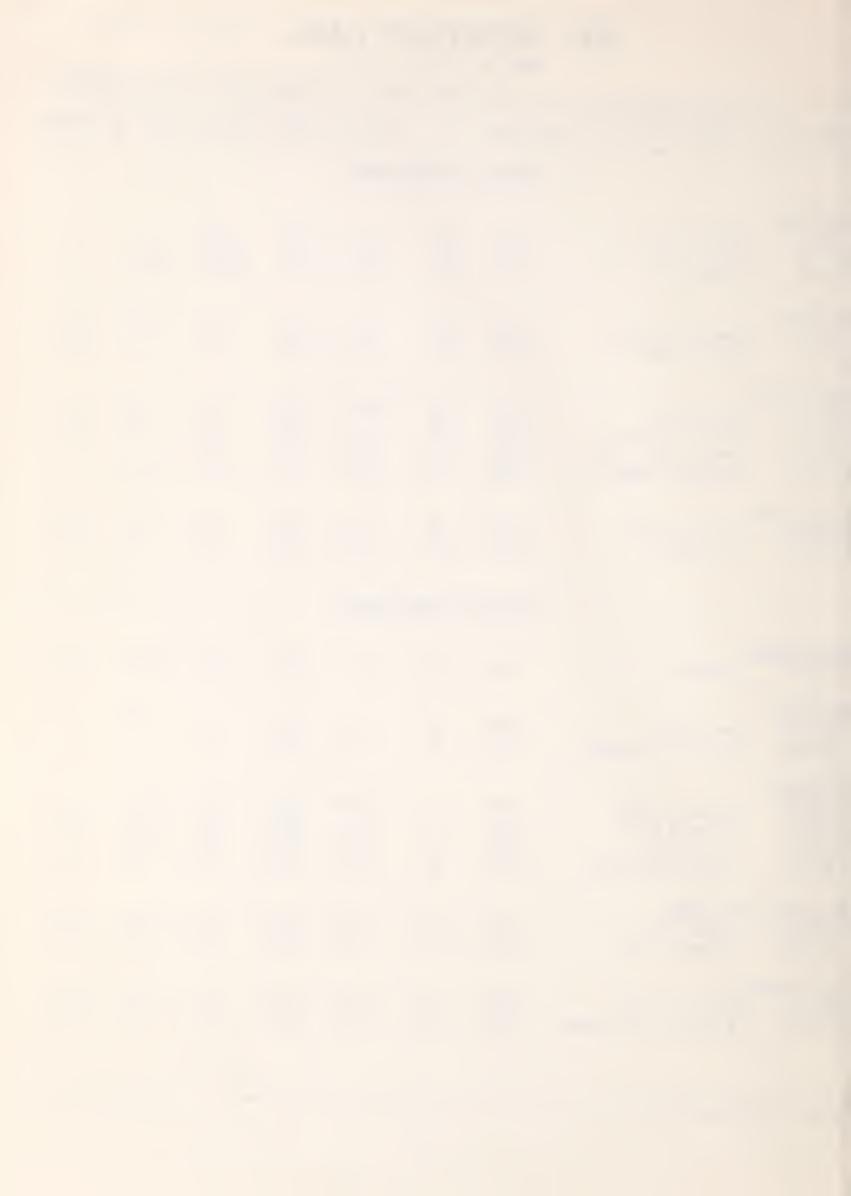




## SOIL MOISTURE DATA AS OF JULY 1, 1967

			AS O	F JULY	1, 1967				(Inches)
				SOIL F	PROFILE	CURRENT	DATA	PAST	RECORD
		SOIL MOISTURE STATION	15	DEPTH	FIELD	DATE OF	SOIL	LAST	**AVERAGE
L	NO.	NAME	ELEVATION		CAPACITY	SURVEY	MOISTURE	YEAR	
			COLUMB	IA RIVE	R BASIN				
	1								
	Kootenai 15Bl5M	Baree Trail	3800	48	7.5	7/3	4.5	=	444.
	14A10M	Murphy Lake R.S.	3000	48	22.6	7/5	19.0	20.4	-
	15A02M	Raven R.S.	3050	48	23.0	7/3	20.8	17.4	4500
	77 - 43 3								
	Flathead 13A02M	Desert Mountain	5600	54	8.4	7/5	7.9	8.2	8.2
	13A05M	Marias Pass	5250	54	6.5	٠,	5.7	=	5.2
	Clark Fork	Black Pine	7100	48	10.0	6/30	8.7	8.5	e=3
	13C15M	Georgetown Lake	6450	48	9.0	6/30	9.8	7.3	7.4
	13B19M	Seeley Lake R.S.	4030	48	11.9	. ,	9.1	==0	
	13CO3M	Skalkaho Summit	7260	48	10.8	6/30	10.2	10.4	ecos;
	Bitterroot								
	13D18M	Gibbons Pass	7100	48	7.1	6/29	6.3	6.1	6.4
	14C05M	Lolo Pass	5250	48	10.6	6/28	9.6	9.8	9.7
			MISSOU	RI RIVE	R BASIN				
	Beaverhead	C C				. 10			
	11E13M	Lakeview	6700	48	15.3	7/3	13.5	13.8	14.3
	Madison								
	10D04M	Red Bluff	4800	40	4.7	•	ome,	1.6	est
	llE07M	West Yellowstone	6700	48	6.5	6/28	3.6	400	4070.
	Gallatin								
	10D15M	Bridger Bowl	7250	48	15.8	6/19	15.2	16.4	esu.
	11D02M	College Site	4856	54	14.5				10.4
	10D13M	Lick Creek	6860	48	18.8				on 2
	11E06M	Twenty-One Mile	7150	48	10.0	6/28	9.4	8.4	8.3
	Missouri N	Main Stem							
	locolm	Kings Hill	7420	48	11.8				10.8
	12C08M	Stemple Pass	6230	48	5.9	6/29	4.8	5.2	5.2
	Yellowstor	10							
	lodilm	Battle Ridge	6020	48	17.6	. ,			14.6
	10D07M	Northeast Entrance	7350	48	9.4	6/31	10.4	9.0	8.9

<sup>\*\*</sup>AVERAGE FOR PERIOD OF RECORD



#### SOIL MOISTURE DATA

AS OF AUGUST 1, 1967

(Inches)

SOIL PROFILE CURRENT DATA PAST RECORD DATE SOIL MOISTURE STATION FIELD CAPACITY SOIL LAST \*\*AVERAGE 0F MOISTURE YEAR ELEVATION NAME NO. SURVEY COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN Kootenai 3800 48 7.5 5.1 Baree Trail 15B15M 8/1 48 22.6 18.5 3000 Murphy Lake R.S. 14A10M 8/3 23.0 18.3 17.5 3050 48 15A02M Raven R.S. Flathead 8/1 6.2 6.2 6.3 5600 54 8:4 Desert Mountain 13A02M 7/31 3.8 3.4 6.5 5250 54 Marias Pass 13A05M Clark Fork 7/31 8.7 8.1 10.0 7100 48 Black Pine 13C13M 7/25 3.7 4.5 5.8 48 9.0 Georgetown Lake 6450 13C15M 8.1 48 11.9 4030 Seeley Lake R.S. 13B19M 7/31 9.4 10.6 7260 48 10.8 Skalkaho Summit 13CO3M Bitterroot 4.6 7/28 4.6 4.5 7.1 7100 48 Gibbons Pass 13D18M 6.2 7/26 5.5 5.1 5250 48 10.6 Lolo Pass 14C05M MISSOURI RIVER BASIN Beaverhead 5.2 8/1 9.6 9.0 15.3 48 6700 Lakeview 11E13M Madison 4.8 8/4 1.2 1.4 4.7 40 Red Bluff 4.800 10D04M 2.8 7/28 6700 48 6.5 West Yellowstone 11E07M Gallatin 16.4 8/2 15.1 15.8 7250 48 Bridger Bowl 10D15M 7.6 7.8 7/28 9.4 54 14.5 4856 11DO2M College Site 17.2 17.4 8/1 48 18.8 6860 Lick Creek 10D13M 4.7 7/28 7.9 3.7 48 10.0 7150 11E06M Twenty-One Mile Missouri Main Stem 9.2 8.6 7/28 8.8 11.8 7420 48 Kings Hill LOCOLM 4.6 7/28 3.2 4.0 5.9 48 6230 12C08M Stemple Pass Yellowstone 10.6 10.5 12.4 8/2 17.6 4.8 6020 10D11M Battle Ridge 6.7 7.2 6.0 8/2 9.4 48 7350 Northeast Entrance 10D07M

<sup>\*\*</sup>AVERAGE FOR PERIOD OF RECORD

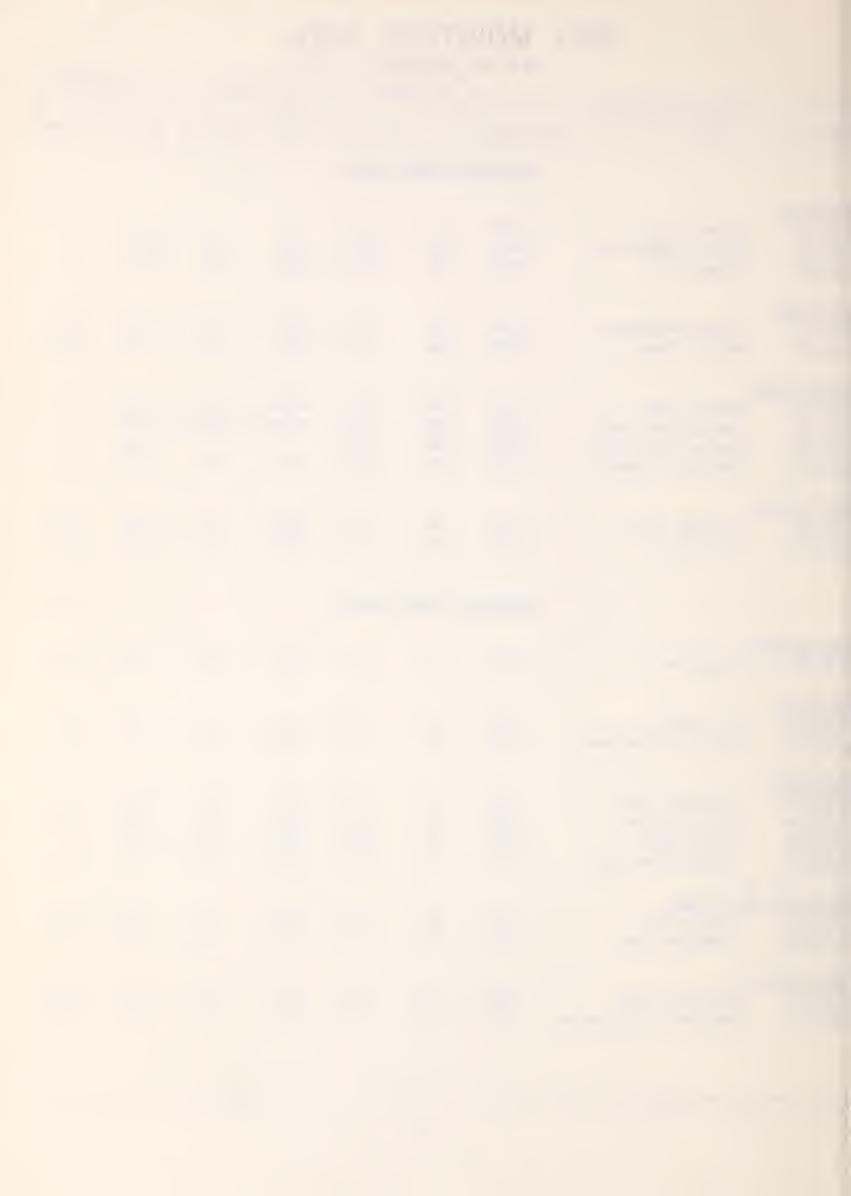


### SOIL MOISTURE DATA

AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1967

		AS OF	SEPT.	EMBER 1,	1967			(Inches)
			SOIL	PROFILE	CURREN	DATA	PAST	RECORD
	SOIL MOISTURE STATION		DEPTH	FIELD	DATE OF	SOIL	LAST	**AVERAGE
NO.	NAME	ELEVATION		CAPACITY	SURVEY	MOISTURE	YEAR	AVERAGE
		COLUMB:	IA RIVE	R BASIN				•
Kootenai 15Bl5M	Baree Trail	3800	48	F7 E			1 ~~	
14A10M	Murphy Lake R.S.	3000	48 48	7.5 22.6	8/8	17.8	21.5	
15A02M	Raven R.S.	3050	48	23.0	8/31	15.9	17.4	===
			•			,	_,,,,	
Flathead		~(00	~ ,	<b>.</b>	2/2			
13A02M	Desert Mountain Marias Pass	5600 5250	54	8.4 6.5		4.8 2.8	5.0	5.1
13A05M	Marias Pass	フミクロ	54	0.7	9/1	£ . o	3.0	3.5
Clark Fork								
13C13M	Black Pine	7100	48	10.0		7.8		==1
13C15M	Georgetown Lake	6450	48	9.0		on disco		
13B19M 13CO3M	Seeley Lake R.S. Skalkaho Summit	4030 7260	48 48	11.9 10.8	9/1	9.2	5.0 9.6	===
1200237	DASTASIIO DUMMIL	1200	ಭ೦	10.0	7/ 1	7.2	7.0	_
Bitterroot								
13D18M	Gibbons Pass	7100	48	7.1	8/29	2.9	2.8	4.8
14CO5M	Lolo Pass	5250	48	10.6	9/1	4.1	2.9	4.7
		MISSOU	RI RIVE	R BASIN				
70								
Beaverhead	l Lakeview	6700	48	15.3	9/2	5.1	7.1	7.0
1101081	Tovestem	0700	40	de 3° 0 d	7// ~	J O da	( ○ abo	7.00
Madison								
10D04M	Red Bluff	4800	40	4.7	= d /a d	1.9	1.2	1.4
llE07M	West Yellowstone	6700	48	6.5	8/28	1.9	•	===
Gallatin								
10D15M	Bridger Bowl	7250	48	15.8	9/1	15.1	16.5	-
11D02M	College Site	4856	54	14.5	9/2	7.6	8.6	7.2
10D13M	Lick Creek	6860	48	18.8	8/31	15.1	16.9	2.6
llE06M	Twenty-One Mile	7150	48	10.0	8/28	4.0	2.0	2.0
Missouri 1	Main Stem							
10C01M	Kings Hill	7420	48	11.8	8/25	6.5	7.2	8.9
12C08M	Stemple Pass	6230	48	5.9	8/31	2.6	3.7	4.6
Yellowston	10							
10DllM	Battle Ridge	6020	48	17.6	9/1	8.4	8.9	9.2
10D07M	Northeast Entrance		48	9.4	8/30	4.1	5.1	5.6

<sup>\*\*</sup>AVERAGE FOR PERIOD OF RECORD



### SOIL MOISTURE DATA AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1967

		AS OF	OCTOB	ER 1, 19	367			(Inches)
			SOIL F	ROFILE	CURRENT	DATA	PAST	RECORD
NO.	NAME	FLEVATION	DEPTH	FIELD	DATE OF	SOIL	LAST	**AVERAGE
NO.	NAME	ELEVATION		CATACITI	SURVEY	MOISTURE	YEAR	
		COLUMBI	A RIVER	BASIN				
Kootenai								
15B15M	Baree Trail	3800	48	7.5	9/21	3.3	4.0	-
14A10M	Murphy Lake R.S.	3000	48	22.6	· ·	• • •	18.9	esc.
15A02M	Raven R.S.	3050	48	23.0			18.4	4000;
Flathead								
13A02M	Desert Mountain	5600	54	8.4			4.8	5.5
13A05M	Marias Pass	5250	54	6.5	10/1	2.5	3.5	3.8
Clark Fork 13C13M	Black Pine	7100	48	10.0	9/26	7.4	8.2	cosc,
13C15M	Georgetown Lake	6450	48	9.0		on disco		
13B19M	Seeley Lake R.S.	4030	48	11.9	,		4.1	era
13CO3M	Skalkaho Summit	7260	48	10.8	10/2	10.3	10.1	~
Bitterroot								
13D18M	Gibbons Pass	7100	48	7.1		2.3	4.1	5.2
14CO5M	Lolo Pass	5250	48	10.6	9/29	3.1	2.1	5.5
		MISSOUR	I RIVER	BASIN				
Beaverhead								
11E13M	Lakeview	6700	48	15.3	10/2	4.8	5.3	6.0
<u>Madison</u> 10D04M	Red Bluff	4800	40	4.7			1.5	1.9
llEO7M	West Yellowstone	6700	48	6.5	9/28	1.8	3.2	- U
			·		•			
Gallatin	Day 3 Janes Day 7	mo = 0	10	75 0	10/2	15.0	16.4	600).
10D15M 11D02M	Bridger Bowl College Site	7250 4856	48 54	15.8 14.5	10/2 9/29		7.6	7.3
10D13M	Lick Creek	6860	48	18.8			17.7	<b>a</b>
11E06M	Twenty-One Mile	7150	48	10.0	9/28	2.5	2.9	3.2
Missouri Ma	ain Stam							
10COLM	Kings Hill	7420	48	11.8	9/29	5.2	6.0	8.1
12CO8M	Stemple Pass	6230	48	5.9	9/29	1.9	2.5	4.2
V-17								
Yellowstone 10D11M	Battle Ridge	6020	48	17.6	10/2	9.4	9.2	10.0
10D7M	Northeast Entrance		48	9.4	10/2 9/29	3.7	4.7	5.4

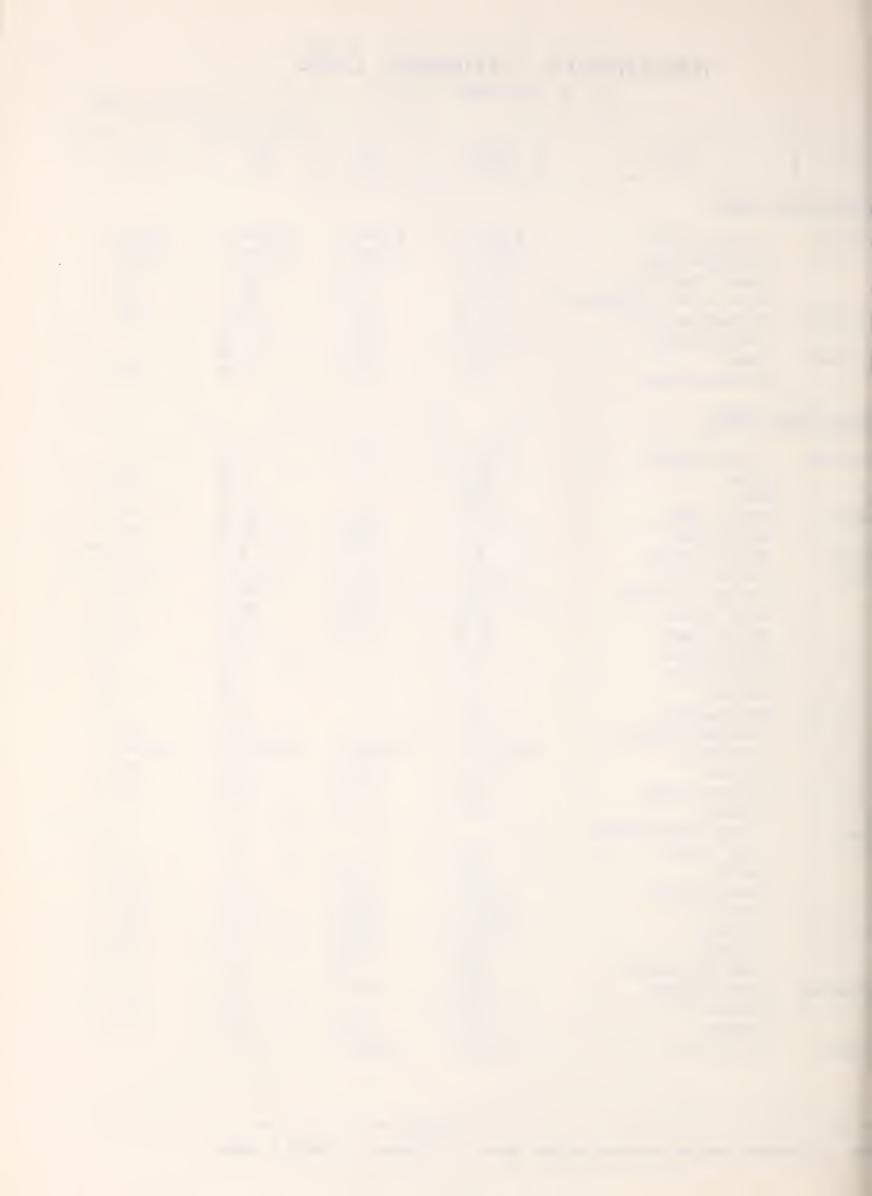
<sup>\*\*</sup>AVERAGE FOR PERIOD OF RECORD



#### RESERVOIR STORAGE DATA

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1967

	AS OF	DELIEMBER "	1000 Acre Feet)				
				USEABLE STORAGE			
BASIN	RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE		
LUMBIA RIV	ER BASIN						
athead	Hungry Horse Flathead Lake Camas (Sum of 4) Mission Valley (Sum of 8)	3,428.0 1,791.0 45.2 100.3	3,196.0 1,772.0 20.9 6.9	3,139.0 1,719.0 20.7 15.1	3,392.9 1,683.3 29.2 17.0		
ark Fork	Georgetown Lake Noxon Rapids	31.0 334.6	28.7 324.0	22.4 332.6	26.5		
tterroot	Como Painted Rocks	34.9 31.7	0.0 25.1	0.8 17.8	2.9 27.2		
SSOURI RIV	ER BASIN						
averhead	Clark Canyon Lima Ruby	328.9 84.0 38.8	134.1	71.9 7.4 7.9	18.5 7.1**		
by dison	Hebgen Lake Ennis Lake	377.5 41.0	310.4 39.3	337.8 39.5	262.6 37.3		
ıllatin .ssouri	Middle Creek Canyon Ferry Hauser & Helena Lake Helena Holter Lake	8.0 2,043.0 61.9 10.4 81.9	2.7 1,709.0 60.7 10.0 79.5	1.6 1,333.0 62.4 10.7 78.1	2.5** 1,742.1** 58.6 9.5 74.7		
	Smith River Ackley Lake Durand Martinsdale	10.7 5.8 7.0 23.1		3.5 2.9 1.8 7.6 26.6	3.7** 3.8 3.9 7.5 28.1		
n	Deadman's Basin Fort Peck Gibson	72.2 19,410.0 105.0	17,440.0 23.4	16,460.0 12.6	11,308.3		
	Willow Creek Pishkun	32.3 32.0	15.6 7.3	16.2 11.3	20.1		
rias	Lower Two Medicine Four Horns Swift Lake Frances Tiber	19.2 30.0 112.0 1,347.0	5.0 71.1 626.8	12.3 77.4 596.7	10.2 14.2 90.8 684.9		
lk llowstone	Fresno Nelson Lake Sherburne Mystic Lake	127.2 66.8 66.1 20.8	75.8 38.5 3.6 20.9	97.0 47.9 2.2 20.7	61.1 38.8 8.8 20.3		
g Horn	Tongue River Cooney Yellowtail	68.0 27.5 1,356.0	13.6 1,052.0	10.2 13.9 601.7	20.6		



### Agencies Cooperating in Collecting Data Contained in this Bulletin

- U. S. Forest Service Region 1, Missoula, Montana
- U. S. Geological Survey Helena, Montana
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland, Oregon Seattle, Washington Omaha, Nebraska
- U. S. Indian Irrigation Service St. Ignatius, Montana
- U. S. Weather Bureau Helena, Montana
- U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife Red Rock Lakes Refuge Monida, Montana
- U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Billings, Montana Boise, Idaho
- U. S. Soil Conservation Service Montana, Wyoming, Idaho
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts Montana Counties
- U. S. Bonneville Power Administration Portland, Oregon

- U. S. National Park Service Yellowstone National Park Glacier National Park
- Montana Power Company Butte, Montana
- State Water Conservation Board Helena, Montana
- North Montana Branch Station Agricultural Experiment Station Havre, Montana
- Montana State University
  Agricultural Experiment Station
  Bozeman, Montana
- University of Montana School of Forestry Missoula, Montana
- Johnson Flying Service, Inc. Missoula, Montana
- Water Rights Branch, Dept. of Lands and Forests Victoria, British Columbia
- Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources Calgary, Alberta

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE P. O. Box 98

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